



## **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING February 12, 2013 Minutes**

### **Members Present:**

Howard Pizzo, Dennis Fedewa, and Karen Mojica

### **Staff Members Present:**

Richard Watkins, Jen Roberts, and Mark Graham

#### **1. Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

#### **2. Public Comment:**

N/A

#### **3. Set/Adjust Agenda:**

N/A

#### **4. Brief Overview of 2013 Road Construction Projects**

Mark Graham provided an overview of the 2013 Road Construction Projects in Delta for 2013, which included Elmwood Road, St. Joe Highway and Willow Highway.

Elmwood Road discussion followed regarding the entrance at Sharp Park being closed for three days, Marcus is working on an arrangement with the Lansing Mall to keep the park open for pedestrians, the Library's entrance remaining open, and a pedestrian crossing on Elmwood due to the possible increase in traffic once the pathway is through to Maycroft.

Also discussed, with regard to Elmwood Road was a request to have a cross section of three lanes from Willow Highway south to the Sharp Park entrance, with one lane in each direction and a turn lane with bike lanes on the sides, the design, island, striping, and contract.

Mark stated that St. Joe Highway from Marketplace to Broadbent will include a sidewalk on the south side of the road and a signal at Broadbent and St. Joe. A water main and sanitary sewer will also be placed on the north side of the road. The stretch of road between Canal Road and the overpass at I96 is scheduled to be redone in 2014 or 2015. Discussion regarding the widening of the bridge and pedestrian crossing ensued.

Mark also reported that the Eaton County Road Commission is going to chip seal Willow Highway from Canal Road all the way to the City of Grand Ledge.

Mark to provide a color coded map of the roads that have been resurfaced in the past 15 years, after a discussion occurred regarding citizen surveys and citizen complaints.

## **5. M-43/Broadbent Traffic Signal Request**

Richard shared a copy of a letter received from MDOT, who was asked to do a study and has stated that they will not do a study without meeting warrants. A discussion followed regarding who initiated the request, what citizens are hoping for, traffic patterns, crash data, communication regarding the letter to citizens who had complained, timeline of events, and what steps the Township is planning to take from here.

Mark suggested a letter be sent to citizens with concerns stating that the Township received a letter on January 14<sup>th</sup> from MDOT, and that we have requested additional information. The Committee feels that they have done everything they can do at this point, other than this letter, which should also contain a point of contact, and suggestion to contact their State Senator for additional assistance.

## **6. Safe Routes to School Easement Acquisitions**

Richard shared the status of the Safe Routes to School easement acquisitions, which included an update on those we have acquired and those we have not. He also stated that the only option left is condemnation and if we want this project to go through we need to move quickly. A discussion regarding condemnation procedures, timeline, grant extension, possible costs, school concerns and safety issues ensued.

The Committee Members were in favor of taking this item to the Township Board for condemnation approval with School Board members in attendance of this meeting.

## **7. TAP Grant Request**

Mark gave an overview of the Michigan Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), which began in 2012, in which we are not qualified to receive these monies on our own. Mark also reported that the Township could work through Tri-County to qualify for these funds, which are to be used for the Library pathway, and provided the steps and requirements needed for the Township to qualify.

Richard stated that this grant may not be reasonable for the Library pathway due to timing of the program. He also mentioned that the Township has already budgeted \$100,000 for the Library pathway, and if the Library pathway projects timeline does not meet the TAP timeline we would look for another project to use TAP funds on.

Dennis asked for information from MDOT on other grants, and the timeline for grant deadlines to the time a grant is awarded to be brought to Committee members at the next Transportation meeting.

## **8. New Business:**

Discussion regarding outreach of communities with regards to traffic calming/speeding occurred. Richard made a suggestion to help citizens who have complaints by doing a special assessment, which would foster good relations with residents. After much discussion, it was

suggested the Township put packets together for neighborhood organizations to use in dealing with speeding and/or other concerns, which will make the neighborhoods take ownership.

Richard suggested Blair Ballou be invited to the next Transportation Committee meeting for further discussion on this subject, and offered some background of past practices, which all Committee members agreed on.

Dennis Fedewa asked that information regarding monies spent by MDOT for non-motorized projects in Delta Township. Richard to provide Committee Members with a copy of Eaton County Road Commission annual report, which would provide all monies spent during the prior year.

Howard suggested that progress on EATRAN be on next months agenda. Richard provided an update on the progress of EATRAN and CATA's involvement with regard to route extensions, sustainability of the project, grants and funding (both present and future) to the Township, with a discussion following.

Richard brought up the Huntington Acres sidewalk that will cost \$80-90,000 over and above what is currently budgeted for this project, providing an overview of the current situation, which he will be bringing up to the Township Board. A discussion on possible funding sources ensued.

**9. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.